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## The Law School

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# Editorial

## THE LAW SCHOOL

Enrollment in the Law School continues to increase slowly but steadily. The 1958-1959 student body is composed of 226 students classified as follows: First-year 106, second-year 49, third-year 68, unclassified 3. This compares with 211 enrolled in 1957-1958. During 1957-1958 fifty students were graduated with the Bachelor of Laws degree. There are sixty-eight candidates for the degree in 1958-1959.

The size of the student body, however, is not significant as evidence of the growth of the Law School. More important is the competence of the faculty, the quality of the curriculum, and the educational ability of the student body. During 1957-1958, the curriculum was studied intensively by the faculty in an effort to discover how it could more adequately prepare students for a learned profession, equipped to fulfill their roles as public servants, as officers of the courts, as leaders in our state, and as designers of a legal system to meet the changing needs of our society.

Legal education in Louisiana is made more complex by our heritage, of which we can be justifiably proud. Our legal system, derived primarily from the civil law of the French, Spanish and Roman law systems, has nevertheless been influenced significantly by the common law. Not only must the historical development of the systems from which we have borrowed be compared, but the recent developments in the administration of justice throughout the world must be studied to enable the students to evaluate our own system. It is essential that the student of law realize that the way we have traditionally solved our problems is not necessarily the best way. He must be prepared to evaluate solutions from other jurisdictions in order to serve as an effective agent in the improvement of law in Louisiana. Although a study of law comparatively is desirable in any jurisdiction, in Louisiana it is essential.

Study leading toward the first professional degree must be general in scope, with specialization the object of advanced study beyond the LL.B. degree. Therefore, a law school curriculum

must include a wise selection of the most fundamental areas — areas which can best be learned through formal instruction. Necessary as they are, many skills and techniques which can best be learned through practice in the profession must be omitted from the curriculum and each student left to his own resources to master them.

The real test of the effectiveness of the Law School's program is in the manner in which its graduates have fulfilled their responsibilities. Having been recently appointed Dean, I may be permitted the privilege of commenting on this point without being guilty of boasting. Graduates of the LSU Law School, both during its earlier years and more recently, have served the state well. They are competent counsel and advocates to their clients to be sure, but more importantly, they have consistently been the leaders of the bar in working toward the improvement of our laws and of the administration of justice. To the extent a law school inspires its students to these ends, it is successful; to the extent that it fails in this regard, it is not accomplishing its purpose.

Despite pride in its recent graduates and the manner in which they have acquitted themselves, the faculty believes that a sound legal education in Louisiana requires a longer period of study than the six semesters heretofore provided. This belief results from a careful study conducted during 1957-58. The evaluation of the curriculum indicated that although the 120 hours offered were adequate to meet the needs of the legal profession, the 85 hours required for graduation do not provide an adequate subject matter coverage. Too many basic fields are left to the student to master on his own.

It has been determined, therefore, that effective for all students who are admitted to the Law School in 1959-1960, and thereafter, the requirements for graduation will be 97 semester hours of credit, instead of 85. The residence requirement will be seven semesters instead of six. The seven-semester residence requirement may be met by attendance in six semesters and two summer terms, thus enabling a student still to graduate within three calendar years.

Since World War II, students have been admitted to the Law School in the spring as well as in the fall. A study of the records of students entering in the spring revealed that such students

were required to pursue courses out of their logical sequence, and that their scholastic achievement was consequently impaired. Therefore, effective in 1959-60, students will be admitted only in the fall semester.

The present curriculum, together with the newly adopted requirements for graduation to be effective in 1959-60, will enable the Law School to graduate members of the legal profession well trained in the fundamentals of civil, criminal, procedural, commercial, and public law. In addition, the graduates will be well prepared in legal history and legal philosophy, and they will possess the ability to evaluate continually our legal system against the needs of our society. They will not be finished practitioners, but they will be prepared to become that on their own. During 1958-1959, the faculty is making a study of the admission requirements of the law school. The number of students who do not continue their legal studies beyond the first year continues to be large. Effort is being made to identify those attributes which can be used to predict success in the study of law and to define admission requirements which will permit only students who offer promise of success in law school to be admitted. The extent to which we will be successful in achieving this goal is at present uncertain.

There were few changes in the faculty of the Law School during 1957-1958. During the spring semester, Dr. Harriet S. Daggett was on sabbatical leave and Professor Joseph Dainow was on leave while serving as Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan. For the 1958 summer term, Professor Wex S. Malone was Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. Mr. Alvin B. Rubin, former Dean Paul M. Hebert, and Mr. Frank S. Craig, members of the Baton Rouge bar, offered courses during 1957-58. Mr. Benjamin W. Yancey of the New Orleans bar offered a course in Admiralty which was attended by nineteen members of the bar of Louisiana in addition to regular students in the Law School. Professor M. S. Breckenridge of the University of North Carolina was Visiting Professor during the Spring Semester of 1957-58, and taught the courses in Corporations and Negotiable Instruments Law.

In February 1958, Mr. Athanassios Yiannopoulos joined the faculty as Research Associate Professor of Law. He holds law degrees from the Universities of Thessaloniki, Greece, Chicago, and California. In addition, he has served as research fellow and

completed all residence requirements for a doctorate at the University of Cologne. Professor Yiannopoulos will direct a program of research in comparative law and will offer seminars in special problems.

The program of lectures by visiting lecturers, initiated several years ago, is being continued. These lectures provide an opportunity for the students to broaden their educational horizons and to make comparative evaluations of several legal systems with our own. During 1957-1958 the visiting lecturers included: Professors Jean Limpens of the University of Brussels, Belgium; Ake Malmstrom of the University of Uppsala, Sweden; Shigeru Oda of Tohoku University, Japan; Zelman Cowen of the University of Melbourne, Australia; Enrique Helguera of the University of Mexico; Fernando Flores Garcia of the University of Mexico; and William L. Prosser of the University of California, Berkeley.

Among the lecturers for 1958-1959 are: Professors Ignaz Seidl-Hohenveldern, University of Saarland, Germany; Horst Ehmke, University of Cologne; Mr. Jim W. Richardson of Bogalusa, Louisiana; and Judge Albert Tate, Jr. of the Louisiana Court of Appeals. These lectures are significant to the education of law students for their professional responsibilities.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that the members of the faculty are continuing their active leadership in research, the objective of which is to improve our legal system. Some of these contributions merit special mention.

Professor Dale E. Bennett began work in 1957-58 as coordinator and reporter of the Louisiana State Law Institute's project to revise the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure. He is also serving as advisor on the American Law Institute's project to draft a Model Criminal Code.

Professor Harriet S. Daggett was director of the Sixth Annual Institute on Mineral Law and was co-editor with Mr. Frank S. Craig of the proceedings of the Institute.

Professor Melvin G. Dakin served as consultant to the Louisiana Tax Commission and the Louisiana Public Service Commission. He is also on the committee on bar admissions of the Association of American Law Schools.

Professor Dainow served as a member of important commit-

tees related to his fields of international law and comparative law. Among them are: United States National Commission for UNESCO; special committee to review social science programs of UNESCO; and several American Foreign Law Association advisory committees.

Professor Henry G. McMahon, who has served seven years as coordinator and reporter for the Louisiana State Law Institute's project to revise the Louisiana Code of Practice, is completing final sections of the Code this fall, the project to be published in the near future. Mr. McMahon also served on the committee of the Judicial Council of Louisiana to revise appellate jurisdiction of Louisiana courts.

Professor Wex S. Malone is serving as advisor on the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law of Torts, Second, and has completed two casebooks within this year. Scheduled for publication is his casebook on workmen's compensation and the casebook on relational interests, co-authored with Professor Green, University of Texas, and Professors Pedrick and Rahl, Northwestern University.

Professor Robert A. Pascal participated in the Colloquium on Family Stability sponsored by the International Association of Legal Science. Participants were limited to a small number of experts in sociology, psychiatry, social welfare, and law invited from the entire world.

Professor George W. Pugh is a special consultant to the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and was on the committee on revision of appellate jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Professor Charles A. Reynard continues as a member of the important editorial committee of the Association of American Law Schools, which is preparing teaching materials in labor law. After having served as co-editor of two volumes and editor-in-chief of a third volume, Mr. Reynard was named chairman of the editorial committee in the spring of 1958. In addition, he prepared as the United States report to the Second International Congress of Social Law held in Brussels, Belgium, an article entitled "Governmental Regulations of Individual Employment Conditions in the United States."

Professor J. Denson Smith continues as director of the Louisi-

ana State Law Institute and contributes substantially to all of the projects of the Institute.

Miss Kate Wallach, Law Librarian, is author of "Research in Louisiana Law," released by the Louisiana State University Press recently.

In addition to these research and related activities, the faculty contributed numerous articles to law reviews, bar journals, and other periodical publications.

The Seventh Annual Institute on Mineral Law will be held at the Law School on February 20 and 21, 1959. Plans are being made to initiate in the Fall of 1959 an annual Institute on Admiralty. Through these programs of continuing legal education, the Law School plans to increase its service to the bar of Louisiana.

The Law School Alumni Association has plans to increase the active interest of the alumni in the Law School. It is hoped that the Association will be successful in this project, for the Law School as well as the alumni will be benefitted thereby.

*Milton M. Harrison*  
*Dean*

October 31, 1958